

MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF COUNCIL

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THE COOPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 26th October 1981, commencing 7 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Chairman

Mr. J. N. Black
Mr. A. Dash
Mr. A. Gill
Mr. E. J. Long
Mr. B. H. Macintosh
Mr. M. Rundie
Mr. G. J. Simm
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson

Executive Officer

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr. O. J. Slattery and Mr. B. Greer.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 21st September 1981, having been circulated, were received. Subject to typing errors on P.1, P.2, P.3 and P.4 being corrected they were confirmed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.i Minute 3.i Dues of \$800 on H.I.O.V. group turnover \$3.5m. since paid.

3.ii Minute 3.iii Advice from Director, Dept. Employment & Training that grant of \$3,000 will be provided for Education & Training.

3.iii Minute 4.ii Regulation introduced to increase maximum dividend payable in line with Section 59(5) of the proposed new Cooperation Act pending passage of the Bill through Parliament.

3.iv Minute 6 Council elected

Mr. E. J. Long as Councillor representing the Cooperative Advisory Council in accordance with Rule 27(a) to hold office to 5 p.m. of the day of the next Annual General Meeting.

3.v Minute 10(i) (ii)

Messrs. Long and Macintosh were appointed on interim committee to undertake preliminary studies into reasons for failure of all types of Victorian Cooperatives and the effect of such failures on members funds over the past five years.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4(i) From Ibis Dairy Products - re slow increase in major Cooperatives membership and possible imbalance of funding.

Council directed

Advice on efforts with Cooperative Dairy Factories Association for involvement of other Dairy Cooperatives to be given to Ibis.

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Council directed

As relevant expertise is not available in Federation Council the invitation be declined.

- 4(iii) From Thorpdale Cooperative - forwarding payment for arrears of 1980/81 membership dues and submitting resignation from Federation.

Council directed

Mr. Macintosh liaise with the Board at Thorpdale and report to next meeting of Council to enable consideration of resignation to be given.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- 5(i) Ballarat Workshop May 1981

All claims for payment having now been received a final statement of Income-Expenditure was submitted for this activity, received and adopted.

- 5(ii) Separate and consolidated statement of income and expenditure for period 1.7.81 to 31.10.81 and estimated consolidated balance sheet as at 31.10.81 in respect of the Cooperative Federation of Victoria and the Community Employment Cooperatives Development Programme were presented, discussed and received by the Council.

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6. VISIT OF DIRECTOR, COOPERATIVE EDUCATION EXTENSION SERVICES, U.S. DEPT. AGRICULTURE

Mr. Mohn was in Melbourne on October 19, 20, 21. He visited Murray Goulburn, Phosphate and Victorian Producers Cooperatives. He addressed a Federation meeting at the Sheraton Hotel comprising Cooperative Directors, Executives, the Vice Principal of 1 Agricultural College and a senior officer of the State Department Agriculture Extension Services. The function costs were covered by attendance fees.

9.

REPORTS

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Council agreed

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"The Board of Directors of Cooperatives" jointly written by Mr. Mohn be ordered from Washington.

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7. LEGISLATION

The Co-operation Bill was given its second reading in State Parliament on 6th October 1981.

Copies of the Bill and the Minister's address introducing the Bill were tabled.

Of the submission made by the Federation on 31 sections, including establishment of the Federation, composition of the Advisory Council and increase in maximum rate of Dividend payable, 11 were subsequently not proceeded with by the Federation after discussion with the Registrar. Of the remaining 20, 11 were incorporated into the new Act and 9 were not included.

Council directed lobbying be continued for the inclusion of 3 of the 9 non included amendments. These are:

- (i) Lower minimum membership for Producers' Cooperatives.
- (ii) Removal of maximum restriction on number of Directors.
- (iii) Amendment of fixed high penalty rate to read "up to a maximum of...." the present stipulated rate.

Credit Societies had indicated seven objections to sections of the Bill including (iii) above.

The Legislation Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, 30th October to consider matters set out in September Council Minute 8.

8. OPEN CHANNEL

- (i) Are to proceed with production of video programme on Employment Cooperatives.
- (ii) Will submit marketing paper on proposal for fund raising from other Cooperatives to cover costs of production of video programme on Cooperation and Cooperatives generally.

9. REPORTS

- 9(i) Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported that the October meeting of the Council had been concerned with the new Co-operation Bill, agreement on the Regulation providing interim authority for payment of higher rate of dividend and the removal of Stamp Duty concessions to Credit Societies and Building Societies. A deputation of Credit Society representatives has met the Minister on the subject of loss

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of Stamp Duty concessions.

Council noted Section 218(2)(c) of the Co-operation Bill requiring the Federation to submit five names to the Minister of whom two will be selected for service on the Cooperative Advisory Council..

It was agreed

Consideration be given at the next meeting to the preparation of the list of five names required.

9(ii)

Community Employment Cooperatives

Mr. Gill reported that 15 representatives of 6 Victorian Employment Cooperatives had participated in a two day workshop in Sydney related to studies of Finance and Business and worker involvement in decision making.

A workshop is being planned in Victoria for Directors and management of Cooperatives operating with or applying for Government funding assistance.

Currently Employment Cooperatives in Victoria are employing 13 full-time staff and 3 part-time.

A third Newsletter is in the course of production for distribution in the near future.

9(iii)

Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported that from September 24 to October 19 he had been engaged full-time on Cooperative Federation of Australia duties in connection with one meeting of Council and conducting an international study course in New South Wales on Cooperative Management.

He reported on the arrangements for Mr. Mohn's visit to Victorian Cooperatives.

He will be absent from the State on C.F.A. duties from Nov. 3 to 26, and from December 2 to 19, 1981.

9(iv)

Cooperative Federation of Australia

Mr. Black reported that the Council of the Cooperative Federation of Australia met on 25th September to consider

(i) Restructuring of the national Federation

(ii) Establishment of a Cooperative Bank.

The Executive Officers of Western Australia, New South Wales and the Australian Federations met on 12th October and submitted a paper on restructuring for consideration of the Steering Committee. The marketing strategy to be developed by the Steering Committee is to be advised to State Federations by the end of October 1981.

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On the matter of the Cooperative Bank, Mr. Black reported the matter is still to be regarded as confidential and restricted to Council.

A first requirement is the raising of \$40 - 45,000 to cover the cost of engaging a professional consultant to undertake a detailed survey of Australian Cooperatives and the market potential for a viable Cooperative Bank. Victoria's share of this cost has been set at \$9,000.

Council agreed

(i) *canvassing for these funds be restricted to*
Murray Goulburn Cooperative
Phosphate Cooperative
Victorian Producers Cooperative
Cooperative Insurance Company
This Milk Products
Warrnambool Cooperative

(ii) *the Federation's deputation to meet Boards*
and Management of these Cooperatives to
promote the initial phase should comprise
Messrs. Black, Slattery and Rawlinson.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10(i) Council Visit to Employment Cooperative

Mr. Gill agreed to arrange with the Brunswick Work Cooperative for Council to visit them on the afternoon prior to the next meeting of Council.

10(ii) Promotion of the Federation

Mr. Dash agreed to invite the proprietor of M.P.R., a professional journalist experienced in media relations, to attend the next meeting of Council to advance proposals for more effective communications and promotion of the Federation with members and the public.

10(iii) Council Membership

The Chairman advised Council that he had heard unofficially that Mr. Plant, elected to Council at the last Annual General Meeting, had resigned from his appointment with Cooperative Insurance and is, therefore, ineligible to hold his seat.

Council agreed

that when a formal letter of resignation is received
from Mr. Plant the opportunity to fill the vacancy
should be offered to Cooperative Insurance Company.
In the event of the offer not being taken up within
seven days, other major Cooperatives be canvassed
with the object of filling the vacancy and a report
submitted to the next meeting of Council.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 30th November 1981, in the Federation's Office, commencing 7 p.m.

12. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10 p.m.

[Signature]
30.11.81

held at 225 Swa

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2. MINUTES

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3. MATTERS ARIS

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